

OCT 11 1924

Synopsis

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"VANITY'S PRICE" ✓

By ✓

Paul Bern ✓

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"VANITY'S PRICE"

✓ Story and scenario by Paul Bern ✓  
Directed by R. William Neil ✓  
Assistant director Josef von Sternberg  
Photographed by Hal Mohr  
Released by F.B.O.  
Released - September 7, 1924.  
Footage -  
Reels - X 61

"VANITY'S PRICE"

CAST

Vanna Du Maurier .....	Anna Q. Nilsson
Henri De Greve .....	Stuart Holmes
Richard Dowling .....	Wyndham Standing
Teddy, Vanna's son .....	Arthur Rankin
Sylvia, Teddy's fiance .....	Lucille Rickson
Bill Connors, theatrical manager .....	Robert Bolder
Mrs. Connors .....	Cissy Fitzgerald
Katherine, Vanna's maid .....	Dot Farley
Butler .....	Charles Newton

## Synopsis

### "VANITY'S PRICE"

Vanna Du Maurier, a great actress, has been overtaking her strength and living on her nerve for months in an exacting role. She promises Dowling, her faithful suitor for many years, that she will give it up and rest as soon as she has achieved her lifelong ambition to have her own theatre. As the story opens Bill Connors, theatrical manager, has as his guest in a stage box at Vanna's performance Henri De Greve, a polished man of the world whom he expects to use as an "angel" to fulfill Vanna's ambition. Connors takes De Greve back stage to meet the famous actress after the performance; but on seeing him Vanna's smile changes to an expression of fear, and she tells Connors she does not really want the theatre. De Greve simply smiles his enigmatic smile while Dowling, who is waiting to take Vanna home from the theatre, and Connors are both completely mystified.

Vanna's son Teddy comes home from the university. Sylvia, his sweetheart, has been in Vanna's play, and the elder woman has displayed a touching solicitude for Sylvia, watching over her while the boy is away. Mother and son are very devoted to each other. His return, however, finds Vanna feeling the strain of her work and beginning to show her age, as her mirror cruelly informs her every morning. Not all her will nor all her art can retain the youth which she sees slipping away from her.

While Teddy, his mother and his sweetheart are holding a reunion in Vanna's boudoir, the maid comes in with the portable telephone and tells her mistress someone wishes to speak with her. It is De Greve, and he asks if he may come over to see her that afternoon. Vanna says "No" emphatically, almost hysterically, and hangs up. De Greve, however, appears, forces his way in, and in an

intimate boudoir scene it is revealed that he is the father of Teddy. Vanna has left him fifteen years because of his revolting animalism.

De Greve's visit and the harrowing scene in which it results is the last straw, and that evening the great actress is unable to leave for the theatre. The physicians tell Connors that her nerves are shattered and that she must have absolute rest and quiet. After months of lingering illness a changed Vanna is found at her country estate; a Vanna too old and haggard to again appear before the public in the roles to which she has been accustomed. When she asks Connors why he has not brought her new play, the manager is obviously embarrassed, and finally says that the stage wants youth. All around her is youth; the middle aged female hypocrites who pretend to be her friends are all talking youth, and the famous rejuvenation process in Vienna. Vanna at length determines to regain her youth and tells the maid to pack immediately for Vienna.

Vanna's return from Vienna is a triumph. She is again the glorious, blazing creature of twenty years before. De Greve, who has meanwhile been paying court to Youth in the person of Sylvia, despite Vanna's protestations, is again drawn to Vanna's side by her charm; and to the surprise of her friends and the horror of Teddy and Sylvia she accepts his attentions. Meanwhile, De Greve has financed Sylvia in a play and is going to build her the theatre he considered for Vanna. In the sweep of her return to sex, Vanna is all woman, no longer a mother who is watching over her son's sweetheart. She demands that De Greve close Sylvia's show, which he does. Dowling attempts to pierce De Greve's armor of polished worldliness, but he is no match for this accomplished rake. Teddy in vain pleads with his mother to break with De Greve. Vanna

finally discovers that Sylvia feels she can not now marry Teddy because of her relations with De Greve, and acting a part she allows De Greve to come to her boudoir where she horse-whips him with a riding crop. Teddy, breaking in on this scene, rushes to De Greve with a bronze figure as a weapon, but is floored by the elder man before Vanna can interrupt and tell the boy he is attacking his father. Sylvia tries to commit suicide by leaping into the river at night, but is saved by Dowling who has been trailing her. Dowling goes to De Greve's rooms and administers a terrific beating to the man. He finally persuades Vanna to marry him, and Teddy and Sylvia are happily re-united.

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OCT 11 1924

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Oct 11  
Sept 29, 1924

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